Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraphs 1, 44 and 45 of the specification as follows:

[1] This application claims priority to, and incorporates by reference herein in its entirety, pending United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/412,305 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 2002P13749US)~~, filed September 20, 2002.

[44] At activity 3500, job scheduler engine 1105 determines if the Set of On Time Jobs 2320 will meet scheduled due dates. If not, at activity 3510, job scheduler engine 1105 determines which job to move from the Set of On Time Jobs 2320 and at activity 3520 moves the determined job from the Set of On Time Jobs 2320 to the Set of Late Jobs 2340. If the Set of On Time Jobs 2320 will meet the scheduled due dates then activity 3600 is performed. Activity 3500, 3510 and 3520 can be expressed as follows:

If $\sum_{j \in S^0} p_{eff,j} < d_{j^*}$, go to <u>activity 3600</u> ~~Step 4~~; otherwise let k^* denote the job that satisfies $p_{k^*} = \max\{(p_j/os_j) + (s_j/os_j) + (rm_j/os_j)\}$. When k^* is found, remove it from S^0 and add it to S^1.

[45] It will be appreciated that in an alternative embodiment, activity 3400 and activity 3500 can be expressed as follows:

Activity 3400

Let j^* denote the job that satisfies $d_{j^*} = \min(d_j - os_j)$

Add j^* to S^0.

Delete j^* from S.

Go to activity 3500 ~~Step 3~~.

Activity 3500

If $\sum_{j \in S^0} p_{eff,j} < d_{j^*}$, go to activity 3600 ~~Step 4~~; otherwise let k^* denote the job that satisfies $p_{k^*} = \max\{(p_j - os_j) + (s_j / os_j) + (rm_j / os_j)\}$. When k^* is found, remove it from S^0 and add it to S^1.